

# The JEWISH VOICE

Jewish Historical Society De  
505 Market Street  
Wilmington DE19801

Vol. 31, No. 41      3 Av 5759      July 16, 1999      20 Pages  
PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE, 100 WEST 10TH ST., SUITE 301, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-1628

## Governor's Trade Mission Trades in Diplomacy



Governor Carper turned a trade mission to Israel into an opportunity to further America's interests in the Middle east. His history-making trip included an audience with newly elected Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak (above) and PLO Chairperson Yasser Arafat (left). Some 30 of Delaware's key business cultural and community leaders accompanied Carper on what many termed "a trip of a lifetime."

Photos by Mission delegates David Freschman and Daryl Minott.

By LYNN EDELMAN  
Editor

Delaware Governor Tom Carper likes to get a lot of mileage out of his trips aboard. He might have outdone himself when he touched down on the tarmac of Israel's Ben Gurion Airport last Monday. For within three hours of his arrival, he mixed and mingled with former Prime Ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Benjamin Netanyahu, the widow and daughter of Yitzhak Rabin, one of Israel's most beloved statesmen and its current President Ezer Weizman. Quite a coup for a man who set out to develop trade, economic and cultural partnerships between the Diamond State and the Jewish State.

This was an auspicious beginning for a mission that produced two Memos of Understanding between Delaware and Israel - paving the way for relationships with Israeli ports, venture capitalists, software companies and numerous other businesses. The Governor led a delegation of nearly 30 bankers, venture capitalists, lawyers,

legislators, businesspeople and leaders in the fields of arts, culture and Jewish communal service. These "missioners" from diverse backgrounds shared some exciting surprises during their trip - including a luncheon reception with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Governor Carper met with the Palestinian leader for 30 minutes and discussed, in English, the implementation of the Wye River Accords. Arafat related his appreciation that the new Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, had expressed his concern for the suffering of the Palestinians in his address to the Knesset. The PLO leader viewed this as a "CBN" - a confidence building measure demonstrating Barak's commitment to move the peace process forward. Arafat told Carper that "we have implemented all that was asked of us at Wye" and added that he needs additional "CBNs" from the Israelis to move towards a final settlement.

Mission Continued on Page 16

## Venture Capitalist has Israeli Adventure

By LYNN EDELMAN  
Editor

David Freschman, founder of the Delaware Innovation Fund, had a very eventful first-time visit to the Jewish State. As a participant on Governor Tom Carper's recent Economic and Trade Mission to Israel, he became "the very first American venture capitalist ever to visit the Palestinian Authority."

If peace is realized in the region, many more American investors will follow suit. The Palestinian trade and economic leaders that he met during a reception hosted by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat were "very receptive" to the prospect of partnerships between American and Palestinian businesses.

Following the reception, he toured Ramallah and was impressed by the stark

contrasts between this depressed city and its Israeli counterparts. Yet the potential for economic growth is "staggering" in a nation like the Palestinian Authority where, according to Freschman, people have among the highest levels of post-high school education in the world.

Freschman learned why Israel is being referred to as the "Silicon Valley of the Middle East". "It is a nation with some 3000 start-up companies-500 of which are backed by venture capital funds," he said. Freschman and Delaware's Secretary of Commerce Daryl Minott visited five of these companies. Both men were impressed by what Freschman describes as a "level of technology so sophisticated that there is no existing market for their services."

He is confident that he can help them find

Venture Continued on Page 16

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## LEGAL NOTICE BY ORDER OF THE COURT

# To victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs who may have claims against Swiss Banks or other Swiss entities relating to the Holocaust:

*Swiss banks agreed to pay \$1.25 billion U.S. dollars to settle legal claims relating to the World War II era conduct of Swiss banks, Swiss businesses, and the Swiss government ("Swiss Entities").*

*The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York (the "Court") will hold a hearing on November 29, 1999, to decide whether the Settlement should be given final approval.*

*Note that you may be included even if you did not have a Swiss bank account, and that this Settlement is different from the Swiss Humanitarian Fund.*

## Who Is Affected by the Settlement

You are affected by the Settlement if you fit into one of the following five Settlement Classes. Four Classes consist of "Victims or Targets of Nazi Persecution" (any individual, business or group persecuted or targeted for persecution by the Nazi Regime or its agents, because they were or were believed to be Jewish, Romani, Jehovah's Witness, homosexual, or physically or mentally disabled or handicapped), AND who:

1. Had assets on deposit with any Swiss bank, investment fund, or other custodian, prior to May 9, 1945, OR
2. May have claims against Swiss Entities relating to assets looted or taken by the Nazi Regime\*, OR
3. Performed slave labor for entities that may have deposited the revenues or proceeds of that labor with or transacted that profit through Swiss Entities, OR
4. Unsuccessfully sought entry into Switzerland to avoid Nazi persecution, or after gaining entry, were mistreated, and may have related claims against any Swiss Entity.

The fifth Settlement Class includes any individual, whether or not a Victim or Target of Nazi Persecution, who performed slave labor in a work site, wherever located, owned or controlled by a Swiss Entity.

All Settlement Classes include heirs and successors of the persons and entities described above.

Even if you're not sure whether you are a member of one of the Settlement Classes, you should request a Mailed Notice and Initial Questionnaire. For example, if you performed slave labor, you may not know whether revenue or proceeds of that labor were deposited with Swiss Entities; you may still be a Settlement Class member.

## How and When Claims will be Paid

No claims process or Plan of Allocation has yet been established. The Mailed Notice explains how you can make suggestions.

To receive further notice of a claims process, and ensure that you are able to file a claim, you must either mail a request for such notice to the address below, or complete and return the Initial Questionnaire attached to the Mailed Notice.

If the Court gives final approval of the Settlement, a Plan of Allocation will be adopted and the Fund will be disbursed. **Not all Settlement Class members who apply will be eligible to receive payments.**

## If You Do Not Want to Participate

If you do not wish to participate in or be bound by the Settlement, you must exclude yourself by writing a letter so indicating, to the address given in the Mailed Notice, by October 22, 1999. If you do not, you will be barred from prosecuting any legal action against Swiss Entities relating to the settled disputes. If you exclude yourself, you will NOT be able to claim a portion of the Fund.

## How to Comment or Object

You may comment on the terms of the Settlement by October 22, 1999. The Mailed Notice describes how to submit comments or objections. You have the right to appear at the November 29, 1999 hearing in person or through counsel, although you do not have to.

## Who Represents You

The Court appointed attorneys as Settlement Class Counsel, and appointed Settlement Class Representatives, including Holocaust survivors, the World Jewish Restitution Organization ("WJRO"), and the World Council of Orthodox Jewish Communities. You do

not have to personally pay the Court appointed attorneys. Certain attorneys will apply to the Court for reimbursement of their costs, up to about .2% of the Fund. Certain Plaintiffs' attorneys will also apply for fees, up to at most 1.8% of the Fund. The Court may award a lower amount. Most attorneys will not apply for fees, and counsel for the WJRO will not apply for fees or costs.

## Getting More Information

To learn more, fill out the request form below, call toll free 1-888-635-5483, or visit the website <http://www.swissbankclaims.com>

### Send me the Mailed Notice and Initial Questionnaire.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Language \_\_\_\_\_

**This is NOT a Claim Form.** Please mail this to:

Information  
Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation  
P.O. Box 8300  
San Francisco, CA 94128-8300  
USA

US-ENG-JVOI

# 1-888-635-5483

[www.swissbankclaims.com](http://www.swissbankclaims.com)

## Scope of Release

The Settlement of this case (*In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation*, Master File No. CV-96-4849) concludes all legal actions and disputes against Swiss Entities relating to the Holocaust, World War II, Victims or Targets of Nazi Persecution, the Nazi Regime, treatment of refugees, or any related thing. The term "Swiss Entities" (or "Releasees") includes Credit Suisse and UBS AG (successor to Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation), and their former and current corporate parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and branches; the Swiss National Bank; other Swiss Banks; the Swiss Bankers Association; the Swiss Confederation (including the Swiss government); all business concerns headquartered, organized or incorporated in Switzerland as of October 3, 1996; and certain other affiliates of Swiss concerns described in the Mailed Notice. Certain claims against various Swiss insurance companies listed in the Mailed Notice are not included in this Settlement.

\* The second Settlement Class also includes claims against Swiss Entities relating to "Cloaked Assets," which are assets disguised by a Swiss Entity for the benefit of an Axis company or person associated with the Nazi Regime, between 1933 and 1946.

EDITORIAL

# A Cause For Celebration And Caution

As we go to press, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is in Washington, preparing for a series of meetings with President Clinton. The two men will attempt to forge a partnership to jumpstart the stalled Wye River Accords and move the peace process forward.

Barak, described by many as a "hawkish dove" has made peace with the Palestinians the first priority of his new administration. Indeed, just days after his newly elected cabinet was ratified by the Knesset, he sat down with PLO Leader Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah to build trust and restore confidence.

All three leaders have praised Barak calling him their "friend" and "partner." Syrian

President Hafez Assad, who has never before met with an Israeli leader, stated publicly that Barak was "a man of his word."

Accompanied by these impressive accolades was a warning that good-will **will not** last forever. These Arab heads of state have given Barak two months to move these peace policies forward.

During these critical few weeks ahead, it is incumbent upon American Jews, Israel's staunchest supporters, to stand by Barak as he charts his nation's course. We must encourage our nation's leadership to extend both friendship and funding to all the players in the Middle East peace process.

To reprise the refrain from a popular 60's protest song, "All We Are Saying, Is Give Peace a Chance."

## The Parsha Place

Week of July 16

Devarim

Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Many commentators note that the Book of Deuteronomy, Devarim, constitutes a retelling or, perhaps more precisely, a "second telling" of many of the events and much of the teaching encompassed in the forty years of the ancient Israelites' Exodus experience. That "second telling" takes the form of Moses' valedictory address, a summative reflection and exhortation to those who will be allowed to proceed to the Promised Land. The book begins with various geographical references (Deuteronomy 1:1-8), followed by Moses' reminding everyone of his method of delegating authority and responsibility and his system of community organizing (Deuteronomy 1: 9-15), originally urged upon him by his father-in-law, Jethro (Exodus 18:13-27). Of special interest is the fact that the very first substantive (as opposed to introductory or procedural) matter addressed by Moses concerns fundamental principles of justice: "I further charged your magistrates as follows, 'Hear out your fellow men, and decide justly between any man and a fellow Israelite or a stranger. You shall not be partial in judgment: Hear out low and high alike. Fear no man, for judgment is God's. And any matter that is too difficult for you, you shall bring to me and I will hear it.'" (Deuteronomy 1:16-17) Even more to the point is the sense of urgency in Moses' directive to the magistrates concerning instances when they will be called upon to resolve conflicts and disputes impartially. The fundamental concept of impartiality appears repeatedly and emphatically in the Torah and the Talmud expands upon it constantly. But here, at the outset of the Torah's final book, Moses dwells on the hearing of words, on the fundamental right of an aggrieved party to be fully heard and heeded. This point is underscored by the way Job expresses his absolute frustration and indignation at the injustice of his plight (contrary to the usual cliché, Job was anything but "patient") when he reaches the conclusion of his last speech:

"O that I had someone to give me a hearing;  
O that Shaddai would reply to my writ,  
Or my accuser draw up a true bill!" (Job 31:35)

While acknowledging the futility of pressing his case when the would-be defendant is God, he plaintively wails that if only there were a magistrate with the authority to try such a case, he would be vindicated. Mental health professionals counsel us to avoid obsession and preoccupation in our daily routines-not a bad suggestion as a general guide for leading our lives. Obsessing over justice, however, ought to be prized as an "exception to the rule"-an obsession that is firmly grounded in Torah.

Rabbi Lennard R. Thal is Vice President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Point And Counterpoint

Recently, a Letter to the Editor appeared in the Jewish Voice entitled "Reader Presents Another Point of View". This letter referred to an article written by me entitled "Jews Can Be Justly Proud". My article documented the enormous contributions made by Jews both in the United States and around the world in the discovery and development of science and medicine. These contributions were shown to be far out of proportion to the actual numbers of Jews.

Whereas Jews constitute only about 2.5% of the US population, they received 32% of all Nobel Prizes in the field of Science since the prizes were established in 1899. These statistics are not unique to the USA. Jews worldwide constitute only about 0.3% of the world's population, yet they received 22% of all Nobel Prizes for Science. No other ethnic group or nationality can

claim a similar achievement.

This thesis has absolutely nothing to do with the points made by S. Kagel, the author of the letter, who wrote about the influences by B. Baruch, Rabbi Fineshreiber, H. Kissinger, and L. Rosenwald. None of these gentlemen were or are scientists. They made their contributions in their spheres of influence but had very little to do with and virtually no influence on the thesis advanced in my article. That thesis need not be diluted with extraneous and inappropriate information.

A separate article detailing the accomplishments of the above named gentlemen may be in order, but should be kept apart from the central point made in the previous article.

Sincerely,  
E.E. Jaffe

## Voice Box

"I hope that we can begin to energize the peace process in the Middle East on terms that are just and fair and will generate genuine security for Israel and a way of living for the Palestinians."

President Bill Clinton in anticipation of this weekend's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

"I hope that the United States will scale back its role as policeman and judge and let Israel and the Arabs work out their problems directly."

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak



Published semimonthly, and monthly in July and August, by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

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Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware. Subscription price: \$18.00. Circulation: 3,200. Mailed to subscribers and contributors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 427-2100. The FAX number of The Jewish Voice is (302) 427-2438. E-Mail: jew-ishvoic@aol.com

## NEWCOMER'S GUIDE to Jewish Life

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## FEDERATION FOCUS

# Forty-four Delawareans To Experience The Excitement Of Israel!



(L-R) Barbara Schoenberg, Toni Young, Judy Wortman, Jack and Susan Stoltz.



(L-R) Beth Moskow-Schnoll, Suzanne Grant

Forty-four members of Delaware's Jewish community will touch down upon Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport on October 31st - many for the very first time. These men and women will participate in a once in a lifetime experience - a New Jersey/Delaware Mega Mission sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Delaware and United Jewish Communities, formerly known as UJA.

The week-long Mission, co-chaired by Suzanne Grant and Beth Moskow-Schnoll, will take visitors to Arad-Tamar; Delaware's Partnership 2000 region located in the northern Negev. Participants will experience the breathtaking grandeur of Masada, explore the Western Wall Tunnels, enjoy the art of the Israel Museum and the exhibitions of the Diaspora Museum, say Kaddish at Yad V'ashem and meet with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee/Jewish Agency for Israel site visits. Panel discussions and briefings by top political leaders and educators will enhance the experience.

A briefing meeting held in June at the home of Beth Moskow-Schnoll and Barry Schnoll offered participants and potential travelers an opportunity to learn more about the itinerary, tour guide and Partnership 2000 Region. Mission Co-Chairs Moskow-Schnoll and Grant are enthusiastic.

"I can already begin to visualize the many sites we will be traveling to," said Moskow-Schnoll. Noting that many in the group are first-time visitors, Grant shared, "This visit will be all that more meaningful with some seeing the land for the first time and others noting the changes that have taken place since their last visit. Celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat at the Western Wall is sure to be an experience that will bind us all together as a group."

Lelaine Nemser and Toni Young spoke of the Arad-Tamar region and highlighted the exciting developments that have taken place



(L-R) Charles Kaufman, Judy Stiebel, Joyce Kaufman, Frank and Judy Filipkowski, David Stiebel.

there thanks to the support of the Jewish communities of Delaware and New Jersey.

Interest in the Mission has been so overwhelming that there is currently a waiting list. For more information, please call the Jewish

Federation at 427-2100, Ext. 16.

Thirty-three percent of the funds raised through the Federation's Annual Campaign are allocated for programs and services in Israel and in fifty-nine countries throughout the world.

## Sew What?

The Delaware Art Museum will be continuing its tradition of offering a Community Quilt Exhibition, and the Jewish Community has been invited to create a quilt square. The goal is to submit an 18 x 18 inch square that illustrates an aspect of our Jewish community. As part of the finished project, a Resource Notebook will identify each square and will provide resource information about the sponsoring organization.

The Jewish Community Relations Council, part of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, is asking

vidual to call Sue Shaffer at 427-2100, ext. 17, if you are ready, willing and able to help! Sue has all specifications and will be pleased to share them with any interested party. September 13, 1999 is the deadline for delivery of the completed quilt square, so please help your Jewish community be represented and perhaps be a "Chailight" of the completed quilt.

The quilt, part of the sixth annual Community Quilt Exhibition, will be on display from Thanksgiving through the New Year.

## Act Now! Seats Available On August Trip To Holocaust Museum

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center is sponsoring a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, August 17. A Holocaust scholar will present historical background during the ride to Washington; her presentation will be augmented by an educational video. At the Museum, participants will receive an orientation to the regular exhibits, as well as to special educational resources specially available to teachers.

The bus will depart from the Jewish Community Center at 7:30

a.m. and from the Interstate 95 Delaware rest stop southbound bus parking area at 7:55 a.m. Return will be approximately 5:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided on the bus; lunch at the cafeteria is on your own.

To reserve a place on the bus, please send a check for \$20.00, made payable to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center, c/o Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628. Please indicate your full mailing address, phone number, and pick-up place. The fee is non-

refundable after August 13, 1999.

This trip is being offered as a professional development program with the Delaware Teacher Center; Delaware teachers who also register with the DTC are eligible for in-service credit for their participation in this program. Contact the Delaware Teacher Center at 1-800-282-8770.

For more information on the August 17 trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, call Sue Shaffer at the Federation at (302) 427-2100, ext. 17. Space is limited, so sign up today.

## Here's How To Help Iranian Jews

The Talmud states: "All Jews are responsible one for the other." We, as citizens in a democracy, we must **not** rest until the 13 Iranian Jews, who are being falsely accused of spying for Israel and the United States, are released.

As we reported in the June 25 issue of the *Jewish Voice*, we asked you to **contact Delaware's members of Congress encouraging them to sign on to the pending Congressional resolutions condemning Iran's actions, the Sherman resolution in the House (HConRes 128) as well as the Schumer resolution (SConRes39) and the Fitzgerald resolution (SR116) in the Senate.**

PLEASE E-mail your represen-

tative at the following addresses:  
Sen William V. Roth, Jr.(R): [comments@roth.senate.gov](mailto:comments@roth.senate.gov)  
Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D): [senator@biden.senate.gov](mailto:senator@biden.senate.gov)  
Rep. Michael Castle (R-At Large): [delaware@mail.house.gov](mailto:delaware@mail.house.gov).

OR

\*\*Communicate your concerns directly to the Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations:

H.E. Ambassador Hadi Nejad Hosseini  
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations  
622 3rd Avenue, 34th Floor  
New York, New York 10017  
via fax: (212)867-7086

# FEDERATION FOCUS

## Synagogue Attacks Impacted Former JFD Staffer

**By DAN WEINTRAUB**  
*Special to the Jewish Voice*  
**Editor's Note:** The author, who currently serves as Endowment Director of the United Jewish Community of Harrisburg, was the former JCRC Director for the Jewish Federation of Delaware and has served as Editor of the Jewish Voice.

Arson attacks on three synagogues in Sacramento, California late last month caused nearly \$1 million in physical damages. The Knesset Israel Torah Center's building was destroyed and an extensive Jewish library at Congregation B'nai Israel also was lost. Flyers at two of the three sites contained anti-Semitic rhetoric blaming Jews for the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

My wife's sister Renee, our nieces Mira and Leah, and our brother-in-law Stephen are active members of the Knesset Israel Torah Center congregation. When he learned about the fire, Stephen, who serves as President of the congregation, was prevented by fire fighters from entering the building. No Torah scrolls were lost although the building was totaled. Stephen joined with synagogue and community leaders, government officials and those from other faith groups

to rally together against hate and in plan to rebuild.

During this time, Renee and the girls were back east. After a stay in Harrisburg, they went to the New Jersey shore to help their grandmother celebrate a special birthday. Mira, who is to become a Bat Mitzvah next February, told me how the congregation is like a fam-

ily to her. She asked me "How will I know this won't happen again?" What could I say?

There are three things that can be done to respond to the senseless hatred that burned through three Jewish institutions:

Written expressions of support to the three congregations may be sent c/o Jewish Federation of the

Sacramento Region, 2351 Wyda Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. Donations to assist all three synagogues in their rebuilding efforts can be sent to the Unity Fund, c/o Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region, 2351 Wyda Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. If you are interested in helping to restore the B'nai Israel library,

please forward lists of book titles to the Federation, along with your address, rather than sending actual books at this time.

This is one of the worst anti-Semitic hate crimes of the past 20 years. Sometimes we say that an attack on a Jew anywhere is like an attack on our family. Today that seems truer than ever.

## Jewish Agency Outlines New Vision

**By JULIA GOLDMAN**  
*JTA*

Just as the Jewish Agency for Israel was outlining a new vision for its future, Israeli legislators were offering motions in the Knesset questioning whether the agency should have a future at all.

The Jewish Agency's annual assembly closed on June 23, having ratified in principle a strategic plan that broadens its traditional mission of aliyah, rescue, absorption and Zionist education to include broader engagement in Jewish identity, Jewish unity and "strengthening the State of Israel as the State for all Jews."

But the following day, Knesset members Reuven Rivlin of Likud and Yossi Beilin of One Israel introduced separate motions in the

Knesset that envision vastly different relationships between the Diaspora and Israel.

According to a report in the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Beilin called for the agency's total dissolution, to be replaced by a "parliament of the Jewish people."

Rivlin, on the other hand, suggested that the agency's areas of activity be scaled back to cover only Jewish education in the Diaspora and immigration from countries where Israel's direct involvement would have precarious political consequences.

The Jewish Agency, traditionally the main recipient of American Jewish dollars for Israel, has periodically had to justify its existence over its 70 years. In those cases, as now, critics have charged that it is

a bloated bureaucracy whose work could be done more efficiently by the Israeli government itself.

But advocates stress the agency's critical role in having patriated millions of olim, or immigrants to Israel, and in serving as a link between Israel and the rest of the Jewish world.

The agency was founded in 1929 by Chaim Weizmann — then president of the World Zionist Organization and later Israel's first president — as a partnership between the WZO and Diaspora Jews who wanted to take part in the establishment of the State of Israel.

Since then, the Jewish Agency has become a quasi-governmental body responsible primarily for bringing new immigrants to Israel

and resettling them.

The agency receives support from the U.S. government through the United Israel Appeal and generates income from the sale and rental of public housing in Israel.

But most of the agency's funding has come from the United Jewish Appeal and local Jewish federations in North America, and from Keren Hayesod in other countries.

Now that relationship is changing, too.

This year, UJA and the Council of Jewish Federations merged with the United Israel Appeal to create the United Jewish Communities. Funding for Israel and global Jewish causes will be determined by the newly formed Overseas

Continued on 15

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## NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

## Haters Kept Jewish Hit-List

By TOM TUGEND  
JTA

Two men linked to last month's arson attacks on three Sacramento synagogues kept a possible "hit list" of 32 Sacramento-area residents, most of them Jewish, an investigator said.

The list was found during a

search of the home of two brothers arrested as suspects in the killing of a gay couple.

The list includes officials of the Sacramento synagogues and congregation members who were quoted in the media after the attacks.

Those listed were briefed Friday

by James Maddock, the FBI special agent in charge of the arson investigation. They were told not to divulge their names to the media and were promised added security.

In addition to the murders and arsons, the men may have connections to the white supremacist World Church of the Creator, a member of whom went on a shooting rampage in the Midwest during the July 4 weekend, killing two people and wounding six others.

According to reports in the Sacramento Bee and the Los Angeles Times, Maddock said during the briefing that "we are virtually certain" that the two arrested brothers are connected with the arson attacks.

The brothers, Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, and James Tyler Williams, 29, were apprehended last week in connection with the shooting deaths of Gary Matson, 50, and Winfield Mowder, 40.

The victims, who were longtime companions, and the Williams brothers lived near Redding, a town in rural northern California. The names of several prominent Redding Jews were included on the "hit list" and law enforcement officials have advised the town's only synagogue, Temple Beth Israel, to beef up security.

Murder charges against the Williams brothers are expected to be filed shortly, investigators said. At this point, they have been charged with possession of stolen property, based on a purchase they made with the credit card belonging to one of the slain men. They are being held in jail on \$150,000 bail each.

Neighbors described former high school honor students

Matthew and Tyler Williams, who go by their middle names, as fervently religious "Bible-thumpers."

During the search of the brothers' home, investigators found a torn piece of paper that matched the tear on a piece discovered after the Sacramento arson at Congregation B'nai Israel, one of the three targeted synagogues.

Also discovered at the home were a large cache of semi-automatic weapons and hate literature, including pamphlets from the World Church of the Creator.

The Illinois-based racist group, which has several chapters in northern California, has been under close scrutiny since the arson attacks, during which the perpetrators left fliers blaming the "International Jew World Order" and the "International Jewmedia" for the war in Kosovo.

The scrutiny has intensified since the shooting rampage by Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, a for-

mer member of the white supremacist group. The FBI's Maddock said in Sacramento that the California investigations are being coordinated with other federal agents across the country. The probe may extend to a possible "widespread hate-crime conspiracy," the Sacramento Bee reported.

In an extensive report, the Anti-Defamation League has described the World Church of the Creator as one of the country's fastest-growing and most dangerous hate groups. ADL officials have petitioned U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno for a full field investigation of the church.

Meanwhile in Sacramento, moral and financial help continues to arrive from across the country to the three arson-struck synagogues, Congregation B'nai Israel and Congregation Beth Shalom, both Reform, and the Orthodox Knesset Israel Torah Center.

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# Barak Coalition Dampens Hopes Of Pluralism

By JULIE WIENER  
JTA

The post-election optimism among advocates of religious pluralism in Israel has dampened somewhat with the inclusion of three Orthodox parties in Israel's new government.

Reform and Conservative leaders — who have been lobbying for years to have their rabbis, institutions and practices recognized in the Jewish state — do not expect the government of Prime Minister Ehud Barak to usher in an era of change.

However, they say the elections have brought about some encouraging developments, including potentially sympathetic ears in key ministries and an increase in the Knesset in the number of supporters of religious pluralism.

While Reform and Conservative leaders in Israel speak of returning to the court system to fight for religious equality, their counterparts in the United States seem more willing to give Barak a chance to address his primary goal — peace with Syria and the Palestinians — before pressuring him about pluralism concerns.

For their part, Orthodox leaders in the United States say they are taking a "wait-and-see" approach to the new Israeli government. They say the religious pluralism issue is of little concern to the average Israeli and assert that most Israelis are satisfied with the status quo, which gives the Orthodox rabbinic control over matters such as marriage, divorce and conversion.

Currently, Israeli authorities do not recognize weddings and conversions performed by non-

Orthodox rabbis, and there are no civil marriages.

While the lack of recognition for Reform and Conservative Judaism has galvanized American Jews, non-Orthodox Israeli Jews — most of whom identify as secular rather than Reform or Conservative — have been more concerned about the lack of civil marriages as well as long-standing draft deferrals for Orthodox yeshiva students. During his campaign, Barak promised he would never support the controversial conversion bill, which lies at the heart of the pluralism conflict. The bill, which would anchor in law the longstanding de facto Orthodox control over conversions in Israel, was proposed by those concerned that the Supreme Court was trying to change the status quo.

Barak also promised that under his administration, no Jew of any stream would feel like a second-class Jew in Israel.

In Jerusalem, Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the Masorti movement, as the Conservative movement is known in Israel, said the liberal movements would be watching closely to see if Barak keeps his campaign promises.

"This was certainly not the change we were anticipating," said Bandel, referring to the inclusion of three Orthodox blocs in Barak's coalition. The groups are the Shas and the National Religious parties, and the United Torah Judaism bloc.

"We realize that there will be no significant change, at least on the constitutional level," Bandel said. "That will mean we will have to continue to fight for our legal rights and recognition in the legal arena."

In recent years, the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel have petitioned the Israeli courts on a number of issues, including recognition of their converts and the right to participate in local religious councils.

Concerned that these streams were making headway in the courts, the Orthodox parties sought Knesset legislation to block any change in the status quo.

Both Bandel and Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center in Jerusalem, said they

were encouraged by an increase in the number of members elected to the new Knesset who are vocally sympathetic to their cause.

"But this is balanced by a coalition agreement which on the face of it surrenders to the status quo on matters of religion and state," he said.

Coalition agreements Barak signed with the National Religious Party and Shas implied that the Orthodox parties may still attempt to revive the conversion bill legislation, although the possibility of a new committee to discuss compro-

mises was also mentioned.

"The bottom line is that our work is not going to be done for us by Barak," Regev said. "Our work will be as critical as ever, both in terms of mobilizing public opinion in Israel and throughout the Jewish world, and through addressing concrete issues by launching legal challenges."

"Radically changing that single standard — which is what the Reform and Conservative movements want — is a dangerous thing to do," he said.

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5. Shlomo Ben-Ami - Internal Security Ministry (One Israel/Labor)
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7. Binyamin Ben-Eliezer - Communications Ministry (One Israel/Labor)
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- ment. (One Israel/Meimad)
10. David Levy - Foreign Minister (One Israel/Gesher)
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## LOCAL

## Bernard Balick: A Tribute

By **BONNIE FALCHUK**  
Community Reporter

Bernard and Helen S. Balick have jointly served close to half a century on the bench in Delaware. He has served with distinction as Vice Chancellor of the Court of Chancery and on the Superior Court. She was chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. And, until 1993, she was the only bankruptcy judge for the entire state.

Helen Balick retired in 1998 and her husband has recently followed suit.

It would be tempting to rest the case after pointing out some of the many highlights of his judicial career. He made many notable rulings during his 21 years in Superior Court and 4 years in the Court of Chancery-rulings that

have had a major impact on life and law.

In 1978, he determined that a husband's pension can be divided as marital property following a divorce. In 1995, Judge Balick ruled that the daughter of a woman in a vegetative state could petition to have her mother's feeding tube removed.

If you have ever served on a Delaware jury, you have been impacted by Balick's innovations. He wrote new rules governing the way that jurors are selected and drafted the Delaware Jury Selection and Service Act, which provides for a statewide, computerized system of random juror selection. Delaware's one-day, one trail jury system is largely the result of his efforts.

He also designed a rule for post-

conviction procedure that strives to strike a balance between the right to seek due process and the judiciary's interest in limiting appeals.

The Judge's passion for the American judicial process is undoubtedly shaped by his parents' experiences as Russian émigrés who fled the injustice of the Ukrainian pogroms to begin new lives in the United States. They settled in Wilmington, where Balick attended elementary and middle school and, ultimately, graduated from P.S. DuPont High School. Upon graduation in 1958, he attended Columbia College, graduating with an A.B. and concentrating in philosophy and sociology. He earned his J.D. from Dickinson School of Law where he first met his future bride, Helen. He designed the post-conviction procedure rule as his thesis while working towards his LL.M. from the University of Virginia. His most recent, but probably not his last academic achievement was realized in 1997 when he earned his LL.D. from Dickinson School of Law.

His work history includes two stints at Aerenon & Balick-his brother Sidney's law firm-which became Aerenon, Balick and Balick when he rejoined it as partner after his time in public service.

He was only 33 years old when he was appointed to the bench for

the first time as an associate judge to the Superior Court of Delaware-a position to which he was reappointed in 1985. In 1994, he was looking for a new challenge. He found one in the newly vacated seat in the Court of Chancery to which he was appointed by Governor Tom Carper.

While impressive, the Judge's curriculum vitae does not disclose the personal attributes that have endeared him to colleagues. Chancellor Jack Jacobs of the Court of Chancery praises Balick as "a person who always got to the heart of a legal problem." He also remembers him as "exceptionally funny"-a recollection shared by Wilmington attorney Norman Monhait.

Monhait remembers one particular session of the Call of the Calendar-an annual review of selected court cases. Balick broke the palpable tension in the room by asking the captive audience of lawyers "Is everybody happy?"

Monhait was particularly impressed by Balick's passion for learning. He would often invite groups of lawyers to come to his chambers for discussions, and, in effect, would create a classroom for himself. "He's a quick study and a very bright guy," he added.

Colleagues also never fail to mention Balick's love of books and

book collecting. In what is undoubtedly an understatement, he says simply of the staff of the Wilmington Library "they know me here." Books are an integral part of the Judge's life and may become even more important now that he has the time to read some of the thousands of volumes that he has "accumulated" over the years.

And while books cannot be quoted directly, they certainly "speak volumes" about their readers. The Judge's choices in reading materials are largely non-fiction and reflect this philosophical bent. The German-Jewish poet Heinrich Heine and philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein are among his favorites. Works by French essayist Montaigne have been dog-eared by Balick since his college days and the author has been mentioned as a man with whom he would have like to have a conversation.

Judge Bernard Balick-a man who "got to the heart of legal matters" has touched the hearts and minds of all who have worked with him. Mazel tov on your retirement. You will be missed.

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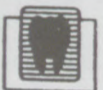
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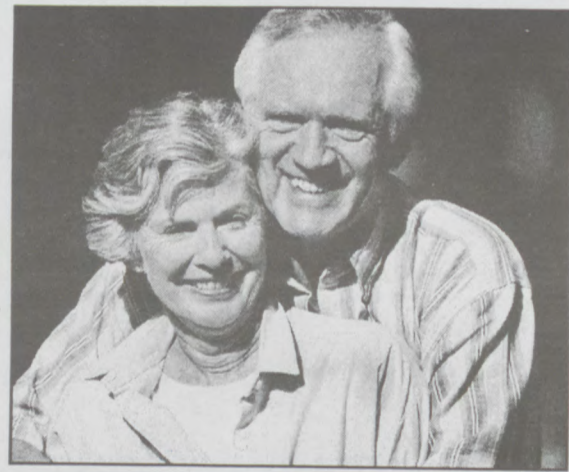
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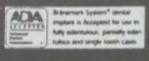


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# JEWISH HERITAGE

## Tisha B'Av and Tu B'Av - A Month Of Lions and Lovers

**By HANNA TIFERET SIEGEL**  
During the peak of the summer, when many people in the northern

hemisphere are on vacation and enjoying the warmth and light of the season, the Jewish calendar is

dimmed by a day of fasting and mourning. Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, which falls this year on Thursday, July 22, is the culmination of a three-week period commemorating the destruction of Jerusalem and the first Temple by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E. and the second Temple by the Romans in 70 C.E. The Beit HaMikdash, the Holy Temple, was the center of Jewish life and ritual practice. Daily and holiday sacrifices were brought to the Priests as offerings to God, and the Levitical choir, as described in Psalm 150, filled the courtyard with song, dance and Hallelujahs. With the destruction of the Temples came the exile of the Jewish people to foreign lands, the loss of the sacrificial cult described in the Torah, and the shattering of the dwelling place of the Shekhina, the female Presence of God.


In place of the priesthood, synagogues evolved as religious and cultural gathering places, and the basic prayers of our current services were established. Although the democratization of Judaism may seem today like a positive result of our loss, it was accompanied by the dislocation, confusion

and suffering that any people in exile feels. Where is our home? Where do we belong? Will we ever return to our native land? In addition to the destruction of the Temples, the ninth of Av seemed to be a bad luck day in which many calamities befell the Jewish people including the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and the outbreak of World War I, followed by its pogroms and massacres. Tisha B'Av became a national day of mourning in which we bemoaned all of the bad things that befell us as a people.


The three-week period of mourning begins with the seven-

teenth of Tammuz, when the walls of the city of Jerusalem were breached. During this time, many Jews do not celebrate weddings, listen to joyous music, or buy new clothes. These practices intensify with the first day of Av. Meat and wine are consumed only on Shabbat and many do not cut their hair, shave, or use water for pleasure or cleanliness. The Shabbat preceding Tisha B'Av, is called Shabbat Hazon, the Shabbat of Vision, because of the first word in the Haftarah for that day, from Isaiah 1:1-27.

Tisha B'Av is a major fast day,  
Continued on 13



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## Tisha B'Av and Tu B'Av

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like Yom Kippur which, when fully observed, prohibits food, bathing, anointing, wearing of leather shoes, sexual relations, or study of sacred texts except Job and those related to mourning. The fast begins at sunset after a meal for mourners including hard-boiled eggs, lentils, and bread dipped in ashes. After Ma'ariv, the evening service, everyone sits on the ground or low stools, chanting the heart-breaking words to the plaintive mode of the Book of Lamentations, often by candlelight. Lamentations is also called "Aikha," which is the first word of the first verse, "How does the city sit alone, that was so full of people, like a widow..." The same word, with different vowels, also spells out the word "Ayeka," "Where are you?" Genesis 2:9 which God asks of Adam in the Garden of Eden, at the moment of the very first exile. Another echo is heard in Deuteronomy 1:12 "Aikha..How can I alone bear your trouble and your burden and your fighting?" which is

always read the Shabbat before Tisha B'Av. Lamentations concludes with the words, "Cause us to turn to you, God, and we will return. Renew our days as of old." Despite our despair, we have faith that we have not been abandoned and what we once knew will again be valuable in the future.

In the morning, tallit (prayer shawl) and tefillin (phylacteries) are not worn, which is also the custom before a funeral, but they are donned for Mincha, the afternoon service, with the anticipation of the consolation at the end of the day.

Although the despair of this day can take one down into the depths, the seed of hope and redemption is imbedded in its observance, for there is a tradition that the Messiah, the one who will bring comfort, healing, and peace to the world, will be born on this day. To support this legend, there is a custom to sweep out your house in the afternoon so that you are ready when s/he comes!

Av is the same as the astrologi-

cal sign, Leo the Lion, and it is the Hebrew word for father. It consists of the letters aleph and bet, the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. So the beginning of this month is stripped down to the basics of life, death and survival. But by the tenth of Av, the harshness of the month has been transformed into Mena-chem Av, the Comforting Father, or perhaps we could rename the second half of the month "Eym," the Mother.

The Shabbat after Tisha B'Av is called Shabbat Nahamu, the Shabbat of Comfort, and it begins the seven weeks of healing and teshuvah before Rosh Hashanah. And on the full moon of the month of Av, there is a minor festival called Tu B'Av, the fifteenth of Av, which is becoming increasingly popular as a day to celebrate weddings. In the Talmud, Ta'anit 4:8, it was written, "There are no days as festive to Israel as those of Yom Kippur and the fifteenth of Av. The daughters of Israel used to dress in white and go out to the fields to dance, and young men would follow after them." The custom to open the heart and find one's beloved after a time of introspection and purification affirms the potential for life to continue.

Many people ask, since the establishment the State of Israel, why are we still mourning? Do we

really want another Temple built, complete with priests and animal sacrifices? If we are not mourning the loss of the Temple, then what are we praying for? We are not the first to ask this question. Maimonides said that it was important to remember the past and encourage repentance and good deeds. Robert Gordis wrote that it reminds us of the work that remains to be done within the Jewish people and in the world. Jerusalem means "city of peace" and "a vision of wholeness." If we read the news or observe the problems in our communities, we see how much work remains for us as partners with the Holy One in the repair of the

world.

Many have come to look at this holiday globally, for on August 6 and 9 in 1945, the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. It is a time for us to look at the barbaric futility of war and hatred. Since the Jewish people can return to Israel and are no longer in exile, there are others like the Kosovars and the Tibetans, who could be aided by our concern for their struggles.

As the inner cities heat up in midsummer, we can turn our attention to the people who could use support in our local communities. And when the temperatures reach

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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Mark Twain In Media

By PAULA SHULAK

If you enjoy Mark Twain and you want to hear some very good Gospel singing, take a drive up to the Media Theater for the Performing Arts sometime before August 8 to see *BIG RIVER*, the 1985 Tony award winning musical version of the *ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN*. Starring Wilmington native Bennett Dunn (a Salesianum graduate who does a creditable job as Huck), this musical with an antislavery message is at its best when composer Roger Miller (of *King of the Road* fame) sticks to his country roots and gives us songs like *River in the Rain*, *Muddy Water*, *Leavin's Not the Only Way To Go* and spirituals like *The Crossing* and *Free At Last*. When Derek J Alexander, who plays the runaway slave Jim, raises his voice in song, the rafters truly ring. Kathy Olatunde (as Alice the orphaned daughter) also has a strong and resounding delivery.

The script is a bit episodic as it follows the tale of Huck and Jim who raft down the Mississippi, meeting con men like the Duke

(Douglas Holmes who is an excellent actor particularly in the scene where he is tarred and feathered) and the King (Jeff Kronson who leaves something to be desired, especially in the way of his supposed British accent). The young men finally discover that freedom is the most important thing in the world. The show does liven up considerably when the con men/comedians appear, but it is Jim who offers the most dramatic moment during his touching soliloquy about his long lost daughter. Although billed as a family show there is some fairly rough language, especially during the satirical song titled *Guv'ment*. The show is also quite slow during the second act when many in the audience shifted in their seats as they waited for the somewhat anticlimactic ending. All in all, *BIG RIVER* provides a pleasant evening as it retells the classic story which is as appropriate for our times as it was when it was written. Adult tickets range from \$37 - \$43 and may be obtained by calling (610) 566-4020. The show will be performed

Wednesday through Sundays until August 8.

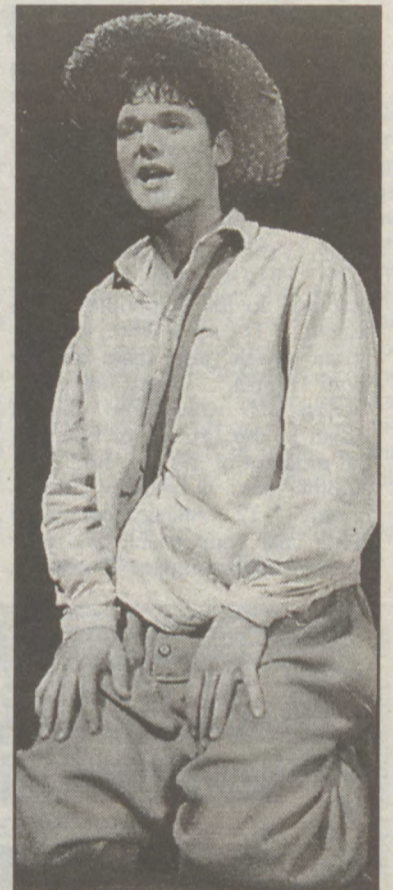
## MORE THAN YOU EXPECT IN LITTLE SHOP

Anyone who saw the film *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* a few years ago is in for a surprise if they venture to Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater between now and August 22. While the film leaves you with some hope for the future, the stage show ends on more of a down note, with all the characters devoured by Audrey II, the infamous blood eating plant, and a "Greek Chorus" of belting females warning "Don't feed the plants, no matter what they offer you!" Although the show is full of macabre and clever humor, the audience sometimes does not know how to react. There were even moments of stunned silence as they debated whether to laugh, cry, or applaud.

The script may be a bit radical, but the production staged by husband and wife team Chris and Cindy Alberts is nothing short of spectacular. Blessed with a bevy of talented actors, the show is full of

fantastic musical numbers, scintillating choreography (Cindy Alberts is one of the area's best choreographers) and excellent characterizations. Without exception every cast member does a terrific job. As Seymour the orphaned schlemiel who nurtures the evil plant, Jeff Reim is an innocent baby face who plays the part to the hilt. Audrey, the dumb blonde love of his dreams, is brought to life impeccably by Tracy Friswell. The street urchin chorus of 3 not only sings the heck out of their numbers but dances just as well. Tricia Arenson, Zanora Berry and Leanne Acero (a newcomer to area theater who I predict will go far) are all right on the mark. David Wills is a perfect Mr. Mushnik, whose name adequately describes his personality, and Paul Goodman in a myriad of small parts (including the maniacal dentist) is different and versatile in each one. But the real star of the show is the plant which grows continually before our eyes. With the puppetry of Matt Casarino and the vocal antics of Andre Dion Wills, Audrey II steals the show.

Technically *LITTLE SHOP* is a monster of a show and my only criticism would be of the staging needed to produce such a performance on a huge thrust stage like the one at 3 Little Bakers. Most of the action was kept at the far end of the playing area and often the blocking and movement of actors suffered. Lighting too, while unique and very effective sometimes made the stage so dark that you could not see the actors well for long periods of time. But these were minor annoyances which did not deter you from enjoying the excellent performances of the actors who were well directed and chore-



Bennett Dunn stars as Huck Finn in "Big River" at The Media Theatre July 7 thru Aug. 8.

## "The Gathering" - A Powerful New Play

Reviewed by

Rabbi DAVID A. WORTMAN

Recently, Stephen Ambrose, noted author of American history, published a little book called *Comrades: Brothers, Fathers, Sons, Pals* (Simon Schuster, 1999). This is not a book of history. Rather, it is an excellent book about male relationships. His basic theme is that men, unlike women, have a difficult time developing intimate relationships with other men, with whom they can be comfortable in being vulnerable.

In a way, the new off-Broadway play, "The Gathering" has a similar theme. As the play opens, you are confronted with what might seem like a trite, often portrayed motif. You meet the grandfather, Gabe (Theodore Bikel) who rediscovered his Judaism in Dachau. Gabe's assimilated son, Stuart (Robert Fass) who has just become a speechwriter for former President Ronald Reagan. Stuart's pretty blonde wife, Diane (Susan Warrick Hasho) is an enthusiastic convert to Judaism. They have a son, Michael, played by Jesse Adam Eisenberg.

The setting could easily have generated a predictable result.

Instead, a dynamic, forceful play emerges which is anything but trite. "The Gathering" is primarily about relationships. In the opening action, Gabe is seen sculpting a head of Muhammed Ali. He then is supposed to teach his grandson his Haftara for his fast approaching Bar Mitzvah. Instead, they play chess and, for the very first time, Michael beats his Zayde.

In a very real sense, this chess victory marks as much of a beginning into adulthood as his upcoming Bar Mitzvah. The scene is funny and the audience is captivated by the love that the two characters share.

The next scene is the Shabbos table where a complex series of relationship issues unfold. Stuart's announcement that President Reagan is traveling to Bitburg, Germany sparks an emotional confrontation that becomes the mechanism around which the play revolves.

The Holocaust theme marks the difference between father and son. It is a conflict between past and future. It is, ultimately, the ongoing debate over the extent to which the Holocaust was an important historical event or an overpowering reality that shapes who we are as Jews

today.

The subject of the Holocaust also entangles the audience in conflicting emotions during a poignant and lengthy dialogue between Gabe and Egon (Peter Hermann), a German guard at Bitburg. Here, the audience is exposed to the raw emotions engendered by this meeting between a survivor and a young German military officer.

The play's second act, set in Bitburg, reinforces the overarching theme of relationships. Slowly, and with great pain, the truths about the past are unveiled.

Arje Shaw conveys all of the angst represented in "The Gathering" through his articulate and well-crafted script. Shaw's wife, Esther is the owner of Miriam Cabnet Caterers. A recent review in *The New York Times* captured the spirit of the script well by stating that "The Gathering is as filled with humor and warmth as it is seething with anger, guilt and remorse."

This very same review acclaims "The Gathering" as "...a play that entertains as it touches the heart and stimulates the mind." I concur! See it. "The Gathering" is well worth the trip.

"The Gathering" is being staged at the Jewish Repertory Theater, 316 E. 91<sup>st</sup> St., New York, N.Y. For tickets, call (212) 831-2000.

**Editor's Note:** The Lion of Judah event for the 2000 Federation/UJA Campaign will be a trip to New York for a Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> performance of "The Gathering". Please mark your calendars for this unique opportunity. Invitations will be mailed shortly!



Seated in front: Jeff Reim as Seymour with Audrey 2, Tricia Arenson-Chiffon (L-R) Zanora Lavonne Berry-Ronnett, Leanne Acero-Crystal. (Photo by: Tisa Della-Volpe)

## Tisha B'Av And Tu B'Av

Continued from 13

the high nineties and there is a bad air alert in the city, with no rain in sight for days, we realize that our precious earth is crying out to us to not be destroyed by our thoughtless habits. There are many ways to observe this fast day of Tisha B'Av followed by the romantic full

moon of Tu B'Av as we restore the Shekhina, the Divine Presence, to the dignity of each human being and welcome her into the way we live our lives on Earth.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Jewish Family & Life! [www.jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com) has contributed this story to the Jewish Voice.

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LOCAL

# Gratz Slates Two New Programs

The community is invited to expand their knowledge of Hebrew and explore the differences and similarities between Judaism, Christianity and Islam during two new courses to be offered by Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School in the Fall.

On Thursdays, from 8:10 p.m. to 9:05 p.m., Gratz will offer a "Family Ulpan" designed for individuals who have taken a basic Hebrew Course and want to broaden their vocabulary and improve their grammar. Families who plan to travel to Israel will find this course especially useful. Narda Oz, an instructor of Biblical Hebrew at West Chester University who has many years of experience in teach-

ing Hebrew to adults and younger audiences, will teach the course.

"Judaism, Christianity and Islam" encourages students to study each religion's unique contribution to the world. Delaware Gratz students may be eligible for college credit by successfully completing this course to be taught by Fulbright Scholar Jack Winokur, an Assistant Provost at Wilmington College.

Courses may be audited or taken for credit. The cost is \$208 per audited course or \$233 for both audited courses. Classes will begin in September but pre-registration is required. Please call Gratz at (302) 478-8100 for additional information.



Several past presidents of the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah gathered to celebrate its 70th Anniversary and install new President Eva Weissman and officers, Faith Brown, Ann Jaffe, Michelle Sands and Barbara Felzer for 1999-2000 program year.

## New Vision

Continued from 5

Needs Assessment and Distributions Committee.

Its 25 members will include representatives from federations and — for the first time — three members each from the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

While this arrangement gives the Jewish Agency a direct voice in funding allocations, it will also force the agency to defend all of its funding needs at a time when federations are demanding greater control over how collective moneys are spent.

Moreover, the contract between UJA and the Jewish Agency, which designates the agency as the exclusive recipient of Jewish communal philanthropy in Israel, has been extended only until December 2000.

In May, Ami Uliel, a Zionist leader in Israel, called for the Jewish Agency to disband.

He suggested instead the creation of an independent, worldwide Zionist organization with its own sources of funding.

But defenders of the Jewish Agency strongly dispute the proposals of Uliel and the Knesset members.

"If the remarks made about the irrelevance of the Jewish Agency come from the mouths of imbeciles or cynics, they are not worthy of a response," said Sallai Meridor, the new chairman of the Jewish Agency and WZO.

"If they come from the mouths of those who do not know how to ask, then we have to explain to them about the Zionist idea," he said in a June 14 address to Zionist leaders in Israel.

"We are a movement of the Jewish people, not a movement of the elite. We are a democratic movement," said Meridor.

Many Jewish community federations have also criticized the Jewish Agency in recent years, going so far as to reduce their annual campaign allocations to

Israel.

But Stephen Solender, UJC's acting president and the executive vice president of UJA-Federation of New York, said in a telephone interview with JTA that the apparent downturn in allocations is deceptive.

"Almost \$200 million continues to come to the Jewish Agency from the American federations," he said, calling that "a significant amount of money."

In addition, he said, "more and more federations want to direct some of their funds to specific projects, and one of the reasons that the overall allocations to the agency have diminished is because more and more federations are directing funds to these particular projects."

The agency's strategic plan, he noted, provides for greater opportunity for federations to direct their funds to specific projects through the agency itself.

Alex Grass of Harrisburg, Pa., the new chairman of the agency's Board of Governors, conceded that allocations from the UJA and federations "have gone down somewhat," but affirmed that they remain "very substantial."

Asked about Beilin's Knesset motion, Grass said, "If he had better knowledge as to what the agency has accomplished and continues to accomplish, and if he recognized fully the bond that the agency helps to create between Israel and world Jewry, I think he would recognize his position is totally wrong."

According to the Ha'aretz report, Beilin — who has long called for revolutionary changes in Israel-Diaspora relations — believes the agency has a damaging "monopoly" over the involvement of "Diaspora Jews in Israel and Israelis in Jewish affairs."

A proponent of greater intellectual exchange between the communities, Beilin reportedly proposed the "parliament," which would bring together Jewish luminaries from the humanities, politics and economics.

## where we live.

The Serebro family left Odessa with \$200 and a glimmer of hope for a better life in America. Jewish federation representatives met the Serebros in Prague, supported them in Italy and helped them find their new life in America. A synagogue support group helped with jobs, housing and Hebrew school. When other children laughed at Alona's six-year-old son, saying it wasn't good to be Jewish because his clothes weren't as cool or as expensive as theirs, she overheard him say, "It's wonderful to be Jewish, because Jewish people take care of each other." Ten years later, Alona Serebro is very much at home in the Jewish community.

If we live in a community, let it be without borders. Let it be a life-long community that grows with us from childhood to old age, from need to comfort, from spiritual isolation to fulfillment. A community that works to give every Jewish child the opportunity to live a life infused with the richness of our traditions. And every elderly Jew the opportunity to live out their life with dignity. Let it be your Jewish federation.



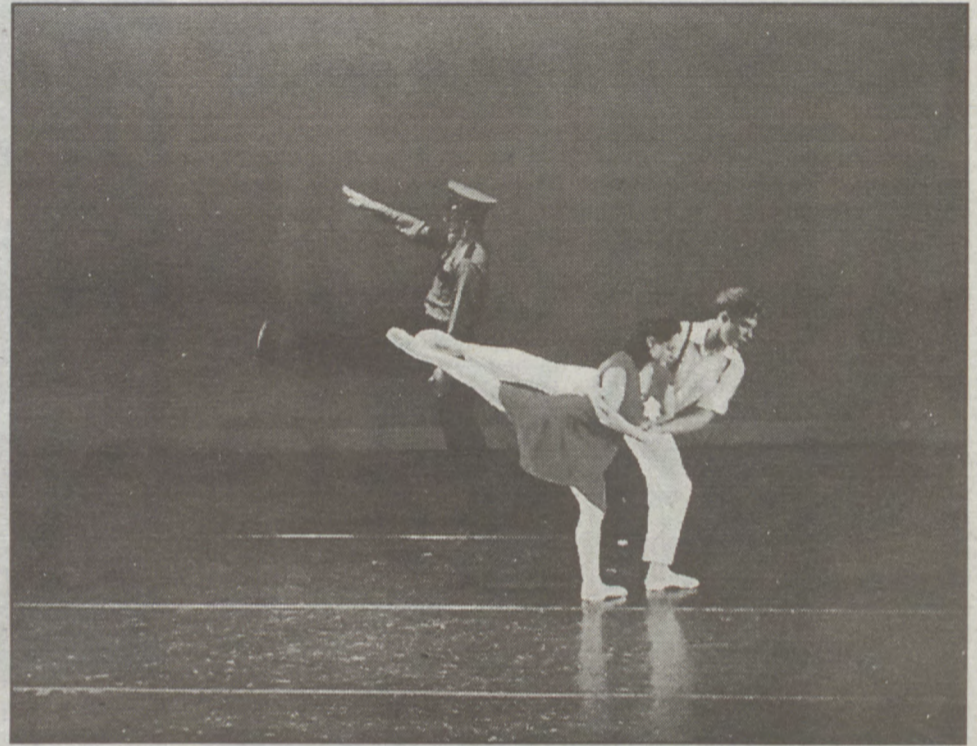
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## JEWISH CULTURE

# Troupe Brings Jewish Culture To Ballet



Photos courtesy of American Jewish Ballet

By **MARCELLINE BLOCK**  
JTA

As a professional dancer performing in classics such as "Giselle," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Swan Lake," Julian Fisher felt cultural pluralism was missing from traditional ballet.

After a visit to Israel, Fisher became actively interested in com-

binning his love of dance with his Jewish heritage. The pursuit of his goal — "to really add diversity" to ballet — led him to found the American Jewish Ballet two years ago.

"Around Christmas time, all one sees or hears about ballet is 'The Nutcracker Suite,'" said Fisher, the artistic director of the troupe and a

self-described "young Jewish kid from Brighton Beach."

We have the talent and ideas to do something different, something that any Jewish or non-Jewish person would be happy to see."

The first ballet company in the United States entirely devoted to Jewish themes has garnered praise during the past couple of years, but now it is facing a financial crisis.

The American Jewish Ballet has performed at the 1998 Piccolo Spoleto Festival — America's premier annual celebration of the arts — in Charleston, S.C. The ballet's first program, "Jewish Perspectives," consists of four dances, each highlighting an aspect of Jewish identity.

### "Dilemmas of the Day"

This first dance of "Jewish Perspectives," choreographed by Fisher, chronicles an American Jewish girl's first trip to Israel. Her first glimpse of the Holy Land is one of political turmoil, dramatized in a dance between an Israeli and a Palestinian soldier, each carrying his respective flag. Israel's religious freedom is shown through the young girl's encounter with a priest and Catholic worshipers.

"Dilemmas of the Day" makes use of comic elements as well as symbolic music and lighting to highlight the girl's realization that the Old Testament is enjoyable to read.

### "King Solomon's Decision"

The second part of the program depicts the ancient tale of two mothers fighting over one child. Choreographed by company member Andrew Bayne, Fisher portrays King Solomon, whose "decision has set a precedent for justice and law throughout the millenniums," according to the "Jewish Perspectives" brochure.

### "In Remembrance"

This section is by far the most haunting. Depicting the grief of a mother who lost her child in the Holocaust, "In Remembrance," choreographed by Jennifer Vanucchi, juxtaposes the jazz and dancing of 1930s Germany,

banned by the Nazis, with a train delivering Jews to a concentration camp.

Costumes in this dance are particularly symbolic: Yellow Stars of David are worn on the chests of black leotards; once confined in the camp, dancers wear shredded prison uniforms.

Eventually, all the prisoners die, except for one who is liberated as she is about to be shot by a Nazi guard. At the end of the dance, the concentration camp victims appear as angels to help the survivor cope with her altered sense of reality.

### "L'Chaim"

This final section, choreographed by Allison Hart, celebrates life and love through the rituals of the Jewish marriage. The romantic ending of "The Jewish Wedding" brings a warm closure to the program.

The American Jewish Ballet's second program is no less ambitious in showing how history has shaped much of Jewish identity. It highlights the past 1,500 years of Jewish history in Spain, paying homage to the biblical, historical and intellectual traditions of Jews living in the Iberian Peninsula. The first ballet, "The Zohar," deals with the mystical book of Kabbalah. "The Edict of 1492" demonstrates the relationship between Jews and the rulers of Spain, particularly Queen Isabella, who expelled the Jews in 1492. However, in the same year, Christopher Columbus launched his ships in search of a new route to India. The plot of "The Edict of 1492" uses the Jews' accomplishments in Spain to show how Jewish and Spanish history are entwined.

The third act in the program sets to music the words of three great Medieval Jewish figures: philosopher Moses Maimonides and poets Samuel Ha-Nagid and Judah Halevy. "Ladino (The Celebration)," makes use of Ladino, the native tongue of Spanish Jews, in original music by American Jewish Ballet composer Rachael Sage. The lyrics are entirely in Ladino.

Fisher is now working on a new program for the ballet's next season based on the story of Esther. "Purim" will consist of six scenes, including "a type of Shakespearean tableau" as the opening, a battle between "the archetypal enemies, Mordecai and Haman," while "the Jewish spirit shall survive again."

Yet whether the American Jewish Ballet will survive to dance the Purim ballet is uncertain, as the young company is facing financial hurdles. According to Fisher, the company is already \$3,500 in debt, as "grants cover only 10 to 15 percent of the budget."

Although the troupe has greatly benefited from the contributions of Harriet Lake, Gerald and Phyllis Golden, and Jane Weitzman, as well as grants from the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the United Arts of Central Florida, it still needs more financing.

Recently, fiscal problems forced the troupe to cancel some performances. It was invited to perform in Cuba but was unable to cover the costs of travel. Some of the American Jewish Ballet's grant applications to Jewish cultural groups have been rejected, surprising Fisher.

"We've touched people," he said. "We are doing something which has never been done before, and we're incorporating new and young artists."

Fisher said he's worried about the future of the ballet without stronger financial backing. "The New York Times Magazine recently ran a cover story about how Jews are increasingly assimilating and losing their culture," Fisher said. The American Jewish Ballet "is doing the exact opposite, yet no one is supporting us."

For more information about the American Jewish Ballet, contact Julian Fisher at (407)578-6486, e-mail [info@americanjewishballet.org](mailto:info@americanjewishballet.org), or go its Web page at <http://www.americanjewishballet.org>.

## Mission

Continued from Page 1

Carper, relayed a message from the U.S. State Dept. to Arafat expressing the Department's appreciation for his efforts to thwart terrorism during the past few months and conveying the need for continued vigilance to control those terrorist groups that may launch increased attacks to derail the peace process.

One day after his meeting with Arafat, Carper made history. He became the first United States elected official to meet with Prime Minister Barak who he described as "A man on a mission to make peace." Barak shared with Carper his desire to move directly into final status negotiations with the Palestinians and his own fears of terrorist organizations declaring war on the peace process.

On Wednesday, Governor Carper met briefly with President Clinton in Maryland to relate Barak and Arafat's concerns. "I urged our commander in chief to encourage U.S. intelligence agencies to work with their counterparts in Israel, Egypt and other area nations to uncover terrorists and intercept their activities," he said, adding that he also spoke about these matters by phone with Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

Carper was buoyed by the sense of optimism and hope that pervaded the Middle East and humbled by his sudden opportunity to participate in the peace process. "Governors lead trade delegations like these all the time," he said, adding that "Sometimes, we have an opportunity to further our nation's agenda as well as our state's."

## Venture

Continued from Page 1

investors and markets in the yet untapped Mid-Atlantic region. "Israelis come to the Silicon Valley, they come to Boston, why not here," he queried.

The answer lies in building relationships "one meeting at a time". He currently is planning a follow-up trip in September to cement the ties established during his whirlwind four day visit.

Maybe next time he'll get to visit some of the museums and historic

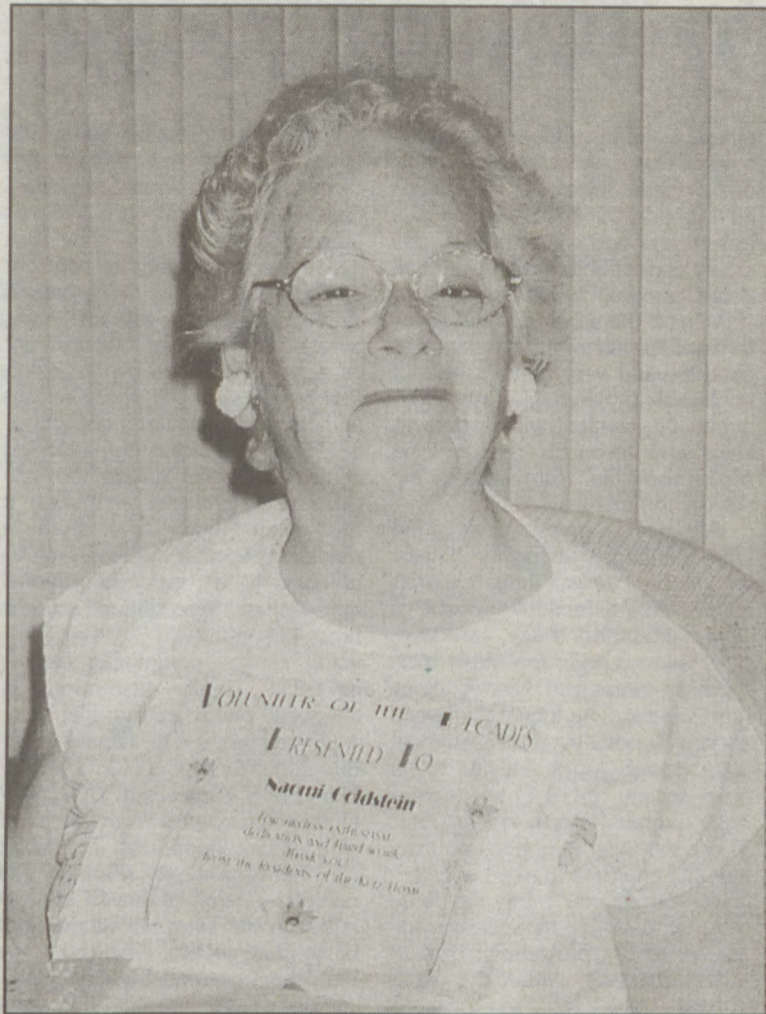
sites that his wife, Robin raved about.

Or maybe not. The prospects for economic development in the region are enticing and Freshman wants Delaware to "get in on the action".

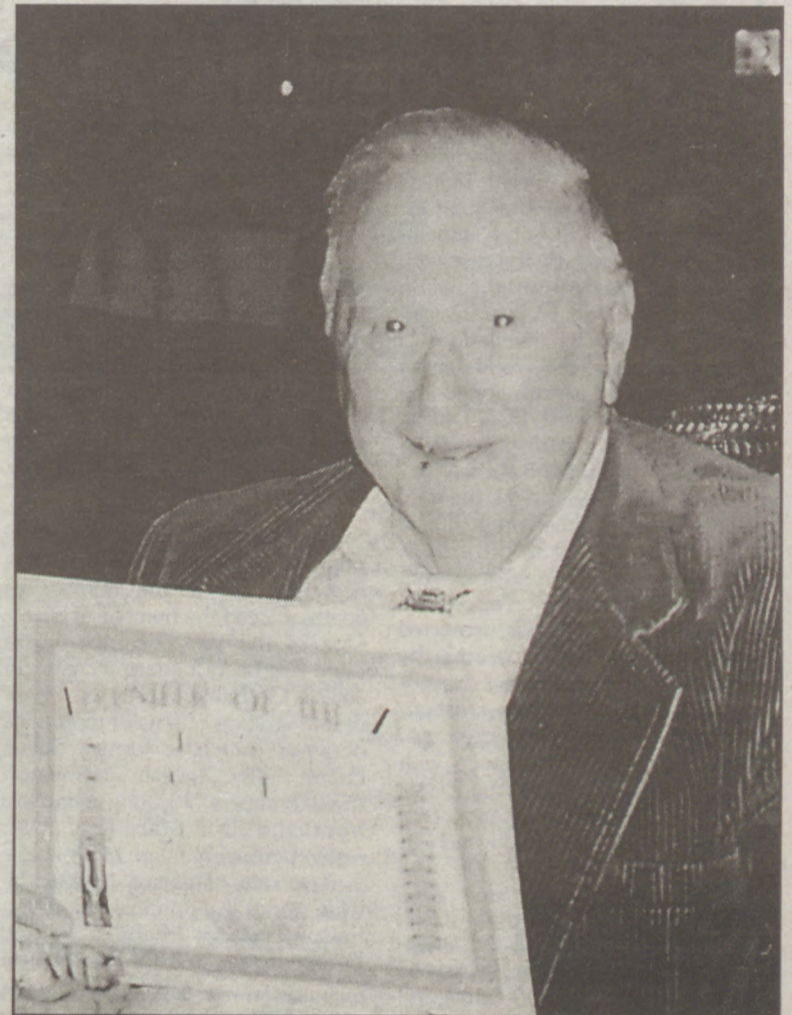
He maintains that American investment in the region can help spur economic growth. "If you have economic prosperity in the region, then a lasting peace is possible," he concluded.



# Kutz Home Enjoys Special Events



Naomi Goldstein and George Paris were honored at the Kutz Home's recent volunteer appreciation luncheon for their combined 60 years of dedicated and compassionate service to the residents of the home.



Vivian and Sanford Oringer enjoy parade of brides.



The June Bride Special at The Kutz Home was a happy event.



George, the Kutz Home's official pet therapist is always on the job bringing joy to the residents.



Rick Alexander, newly elected president of the Kutz Home's Board of Directors will usher the home into the 21st Century.

## A MATTER OF OPINION

# Evolving Demography Of World Jewry

Statistics are known as a branch of mathematics. It generally refers to methods used to analyze numerical data and to draw sometimes far reaching and important conclusions. This is precisely the case with a statistical analysis of the world Jewish population. A key conclusion of a study by the Jerusalem based Institute of the World Jewish Congress is that assimilation is taking its toll and that 50% of the Diaspora Jews could possibly be lost in one generation.

According to the study, the total World Jewish population is put at 13.5 million, of whom 5.6 million reside in the USA. Israel is second, with a Jewish population approaching 4.9 million and is expected within a few years to become the largest Jewish community, surpassing the U.S. Jewish population. The country with the third largest Jewish population is France with 600,000 Jews, followed by Russia with 450,000, and in other parts of the former Soviet Union such as the Ukraine with 300,000 and Belarus with 45,000, and even Uzbekistan with 20,000 Jews. Canada has a significant Jewish population of 360,000, followed by the U.K. with 300,000 and Argentina with 230,000. There are places like Latvia with 18,000, Greece with 5,000, Hong Kong with 2,500, Zimbabwe with 900, and Yemen with 500 Jews. There

are also thirty-one countries where the Jewish population is less than 100, such as China, Egypt, Zambia, etc.

Other interesting data contained in the report show that about 500,000 Israelis have left Israel since 1948, 70% of whom settled in the USA, followed by 8% each in Canada and France. According to Dr. Avi Becker the WJC director, in the major countries where Jews reside the situation is paradoxically "good for the Jews, but bad for Judaism."

In these countries the natural population growth among Jews is negative, that is the number of deaths exceed the number of births. One of the few countries where there has been a sharp increase in Jews is Germany, mostly as a result of immigration of tens of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union. The Jewish population there numbers 70,000, a far cry from the 503,000 Jews who resided in Germany in 1933.

The rate of assimilation worldwide stands at approximately 50%. In some places in the USA and Europe it rises to 80%. The highest assimilation rate is found in Finland where 90% of the 1,200 Jews have undergone or are undergoing this process. On the other hand, the estimated one million Orthodox Jews in the Diaspora, of whom

35% are ultra-Orthodox, are increasing in numbers. According to the WJC report, that group increased over the last decade by 20%. Religious Jews are becoming progressively more pious as well as more insular. Most of the non-Israeli religious Jews live in "voluntary ghettos" in New York, Los Angeles, London, Toronto, Antwerp and other places. About 40% of ordinary Diaspora Jews are not registered as members of any synagogue or community center.

The survey also includes data on "distressed" Jewish communities such as that of Iran with 25,000 Jews, Cuba with 800, Syria with 100, and Lebanon with 20 Jews. Most Jews of these countries emigrated to Israel, mostly via secret operations.

The Jewish population in the USA is also diminishing due to assimilation and intermarriage. One Harvard study cites by Alan Dershowitz in his book "The Vanishing American Jew" predicts that if current demographic trends continue, the American Jewish community is likely to number less than one million by the time the United States celebrates its tricen-

ennial in 2076. Other projections suggest that early in the next century American Jewish life will undergo a gradual but ultimately and radical change and will eventually primarily consist of isolated pockets of ultra-Orthodox Hasidim.

What is the solution to this monumental problem? It is clearly a complex and very difficult, almost implacable problem. Nevertheless it ought to be tackled with whatever ideas and resources that can be made available from within the Jewish community.

Although at present Jews in the USA still largely associate socially with other Jews, their children receive only a minimal amount of Jewish education, if any, particularly in towns outside the major metropolitan areas like New York or Los Angeles. The inevitable association with non-Jews, possession of weak Jewish roots, and life in an open society results in an increasingly higher intermarriage rate. Those who live in ghettos and the few that emigrate to Israel will surely survive as Jews. For the large majority, however, there is no ready answer to the problem of how to live permanently within the main-

stream of American life and at the same time within a true Jewish community. The British historian Geoffrey Barclough once said that "demography is destiny." The Jews must have the courage to confront demographic reality and act to avert a Diaspora without Jews. Surely one very important element in slowing assimilation is much more and, above all, more serious and effective Jewish education. Since such education in the USA is controlled almost entirely by religious establishments and since it has been much less than a mediocre success, the time may be at hand to try other educational approaches. In addition, association with Jews in synagogues, youth camps, community centers or other similar institutions is absolutely one more essential step.

"If you will, it is no fairytale" was the motto in the 1902 Theodor Herzl book "Altneuland" ("Old New Land") with respect to the creation of a Jewish homeland. The same can be applied to stopping the relentless march of Jewish demography in the Diaspora. It may not be too late to take whatever steps are deemed essential and effective.

E.E. Jaffe

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### BOFFA

Ruth Eleanor Boffa, 61, died July 2 in her Chalfonte home. A staff coordinator at Hahneman Hospital in Philadelphia, she was a past president of B'nai B'rith Women and a member of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Felix Boffa; a son, Joseph Boffa of Hockessin; three daughters, Jody Joyce and Dr. Julie Cohen of Bear and Joanne Boffa of Wilmington; a brother, Ronald Goldberg of Long Beach, CA and three granddaughters, Morgan, Erin and Lauren. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to: The American Cancer Society or the Susan Komens Foundation.

### FREEDMAN

Elaine H. Freedman, 78, of Newark, died July 6 at home surrounded by family after a battle with cancer. A life-long creative writer, she has published one novel and numerous short stories, magazine articles and essays. She worked as a teacher, personnel trainer and journalist in Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Norman S. Freedman; daughters, Meg Stone of Cincinnati, Ohio and Mona Phillips of Martinsville, N.H.; her son, Marc Freedman of Brooklyn, NY and six grandchildren. Please send donations in her memory to Compassionate Care Hospice, 256 Chapman Road, Newark, DE 19702.

### GOLDFUS

Marion Goldfus, 85, died June 27. A long-term resident of Wilmington, she was a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and volunteered for 20 years with the State of Delaware Family Court System.

She also has served as a volunteer for Winterthur Library, Head Start, the Veterans Administration Hospital and was a member of the Academy of Lifelong Learning. Pre-deceased by her husband, Stanley, Mrs. Goldfus is survived by her son, Mark of Lawrenceville, NJ, daughter, Arlene C. Lutz of Ocean Twp., NJ and five grandchildren. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Stanley J. Goldfus Memorial Fund, Department of History, University of Delaware.

### GORDON

Rosalyn Pasikow Gordon, died June 29 at her home in Coconut Creek, FL. The wife of Herman D. Gordon, she is mourned by her daughter, Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt and son-in-law, Steve Bernhardt of Wilmington; daughter, Rebecca Starr and son-in-law Rabbi Barry Starr of Sharon, MA and son, Hershel Gordon of Phoenix, AZ. Mrs. Gordon also is survived by her sister, Leah Rosenthal of Elkins Park, PA and her grandchildren, Idit, Joshua and Elana Romirowsky, Elianna and Uri Starr

and Jill and Paula Bernhardt. She was pre-deceased by her sister, Esther Richman. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to Naamat USA (Pioneer Women), Temple Israel of Sharon, MA or Albert Einstein Academy, Wilmington, DE.

### KLINE

Howard Kline, 89, died June 25 in New York. He is survived by two nieces, Lita Koffler of North Hills and Doris Rosenblatt of Wilmington.

### NOZNESKY

Sara Noznesky, 82, died July 10 in Kennett Square, PA. A real estate investor, she is survived by one niece and four nephews. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to the American Cancer Society.

### TUCKER

Dr. Leonard Tucker, 79, formerly of Wilmington, died July 6 in Chambersburg, PA. He is survived by his daughters, Irene of Durham, NC and Baltimore, MD, Diane and Meredith, both of New York City and his former wife, Marcia R. Tucker, also of New York City.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline published in *The Jewish Voice*. Please provide entries in the same format as seen on this page. The *Jewish Voice* fax number is 427-2438.

## JULY

**Thursday 29**

**Jewish Family Service** presents "Moms and Multi-Tasking: Nourishing Our Spirits In a Busy World. Join Rabbi Myriam Klotz, director of the Kimmel Spiller Jewish Healing Center at JFS for a discussion from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at 101 Garden of Eden Road in Wilmington. Please call 478-9411 to register. Donations will be accepted to support the building of the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center Resource Library.

**Friday 30**

**Join congregants of Beth Shalom** of Dover for a Shabbat camping experience in Killens Pond State Park. The weekend experience begins at sundown with Sabbath songs around the campfire and a kiddush to follow. Organized activities include scavenger hunts, rocket building, star gazing, night hikes; canoeing and more. The facility offers a complete Water Park and other recreational facilities will be available to the congregants throughout the weekend. Call Garth at 1-302-659-0801 for more information.

**Saturday 31**

**Paint pottery and schmooze** with fellow members of Jewish Young Adults of Delaware. Meet at Aglazement, 1006 N. Union St., Wilmington at 5 p.m. then join the group for a pizza party at Pala's. Call Ronni at 322-3228 for more information. Registration deadline is July 25th.

## AUGUST

**Saturday 14**

**Evening Barbecue and Havdallah Service** for Young Jewish Singles of Delaware. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

**Saturday 21**

**Jewish Young Adults of Delaware** sponsor the 5th annual Pool Party Bash at the JCC. Come one, come all. For all the details, call Phil at 652-6688.

## ONGOING COUNSELING AVAILABLE AT JFS

Individual and family counseling is available through Jewish Family Service. Their trained staff can help you cope with the challenges of adolescence, parenting, marital problems, aging and other stressful events. To schedule an appointment, please call 478-9411.

## SENIORS WANTED FOR DISCUSSION GROUP

Have lunch and enjoy a stimulating conversation on a variety of topics every Monday at the JCC. The focus is on "Creative Self Expression". Call Stacey at Jewish Family Service, 478-9411 for details.

## GRATZ NEEDS A "CART FAIRY"

Gratz Hebrew High School is expecting a shipment of books this summer and needs a book cart on wheels to transport them between classrooms. If you can help, please call Marlene Milunsky, principal, at 478-8100.

## VOLLEYBALL ANYONE?

Young Jewish Singles of Delaware sponsors a weekly volleyball game and dinner outing for adults in their 20s and 30s. Non competitive play every Wednesday at 6p.m., dinner at 8p.m. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

## ISRAEL AND JEWISH STUDIES

The WUJS Institute offers scholarships of \$200 during the year 2000 to all young adults in the Delaware/NJ Partnership 2000 Region. The scholarship brings the cost of the seven-month Institute to \$2000 and includes Hebrew Ulpan, Jewish-Israel Studies, camping trips, seminars and a wide range of social and cultural activities over seven months. Also included in the cost are accommodations, one cooked meal a day and employment assistance. For additional information, call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100.

The National Havurah Committee will host its annual Summer Institute: *Lishmoa, Lilmod, U'l'amed*- To Listen, To Learn, To Teach, August 2-8 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, Long Island. Programs for teens and adults include: Creating a Spiritual Autobiography, Social Activism Through the Performing Arts and Hassidic culture. Yoga, meditation and performance opportunities also are available, as is comprehensive programming for children 6 months through age 12. For additional information, call the NHC at (215) 248-1335 or visit their web site at [www.Havurah.org](http://www.Havurah.org).



## CLARIFICATION

Lloyd Shorter (far right), a musician who accompanied Governor Carper on his recent mission to Israel, was misidentified in the June 25 edition of the *Jewish Voice*. We apologize for the error.

## AKSE Elects New Officers And Board

At the annual congregational meeting on May 25, 1999, the following individuals were elected as officers of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

President.....	Harriet Ainbinder
V.P. Finance.....	Elliott Echt
V.P. Education.....	Eleanor Weinglass
V.P. Religious Affairs.....	Mark Wagman
V.P. Administration.....	Connie Sugarman
V.P. Facilities.....	Marc Pevar
V.P. Membership.....	Susan Goodhart
V.P. Ways & Means.....	Arlene Simon and Roberta Woloshin
Treasurer.....	Max Rosenberg
Secretary.....	Vivian Goldberg
Advisor.....	Helen Gordon

The following were elected as members of the Board of Governors for 1999-2001:

Michael Cabelli; Shirley Fischer Drowos; Earl Erdman; Ann Greenstein, Marilyn Harwick; Jeffrey Seidel; Harlan Tenenbaum and Natalie Woloshin and Martin Zukoff.

Appointed to serve on the Board for 1999-2000 are: Eileen Cohen, Paula Golden, Sophie Longwill, Michelle Margules, Hedy Mintz, and Sam Samuels.

Continuing to serve as board members through 2000 are: Ian Goodhart, Kevin Gross, Ron Makar, Joel Panitz, Howard Stromwasser, Gail Tolpin, Sandye Turnauer, and Michael Weiser.

Life members of the AKSE Board are: Morris Ashkanasi; Gerald Blum, John Elzufon; Alan Goldberg; Esther Goldberg; Perry Goldlust; Sarah Goldstein; Sidney Gross; Richard Harwick; Jacob Hoffman, Edward Kauffman; Bernard Panitz; Harvey Rubenstein; Isadore Silverman; Howard Simon and Jerome Smith.

## Seniors Serve And Tour Israel With B'nai B'rith

B'nai B'rith has an answer for senior citizens seeking more than the usual vacation: Active Retirees in Israel. ARI is now in its 17th year.

For four to eight weeks, ARI participants make their home in coastal Netanya, where they spend half their time tutoring local students, tending public gardens, or packing medical supplies for the army, or doing other community service.

The active seniors take a day or more each week to tour such classic sites as Jerusalem's Old City, the Galilee, and the Golan Heights. They can also join "Taste of Hebrew" classes to enhance their language skills. The combination of travel and learning has drawn many repeat participants, some up to 13 times. ARI, which means lion in Hebrew, thus has generated its own sequel: ROAR (Return of Active Retirees).

"It's wonderful to see Israel and to be a part of it through our volunteer work," says Belle Cohen, of

Hamden, Conn., a retired office manager. An 11-year veteran of the program, she has shared it with her sister Frances and her brother-in-law, Julius Levine, first in their family to go. "We call it among ourselves a mini-aliyah," says Cohen.

ARI's next trips are as follows:

Fall: Oct. 13-Nov. 10, 1999 - \$3,500  
Winter: Jan. 16-Mar. 12, 2000 - \$4,400  
Spring: April 30-May 28, 2000 - \$3,500

Based on double occupancy at the kosher Hotel Galil, prices include round trip airfare via El Al from Newark International Airport, tours, meals, tax, gratuities, and more. Single rooms are available at additional cost.

For complete details, call toll free (800) 500-6533 or (202) 857-6584. Or write to B'nai B'rith, Center for Senior Services, 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20038.

## Have A Classified Ad?

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Director, Jewish Fund for the Future  
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For more information, please call Rachel Gross at 427-2100, ext. 19.

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